

Information provided directly from Dr. Rahman:

Please use two websites for the history the way the country became independent in 1971. These are: www.bangladoot.org and www.bangladeshgov.org.

Briefly, Bangladesh became independent through a liberation war fought against Pakistan's central government of which Bangladesh (East Pakistan) was a part. India provided support to the liberation war in behalf of Bangladeshi fighters. Nearly 30 million refugees from Bangladesh took shelter in India when Pakistani army cracked down on the Bangladeshi fighters and their people and tried to rule East Pakistan by military force. However Pakistani army surrendered to Indian army as a result of war in December 1971 and the independent state of Bangladesh was established on 16 December. But as the declaration for independence was given on 23rd March in 1971, the Independence Day is observed on 23 March.

I have contacted the Press Minister at the Bangladesh Mission to the United Nations, Mr. M. Mohaddes who has agreed to provide pictures, videos, and any literature on any aspects of Bangladesh. I have also explained the USAID/ODW project to him. Please ask these schools to contact Mr. Mohaddes either by telephone at: (212) 867-3434, Ext. 016 or e-mail at: tmuhaddes@hotmail.com

Traditional Independence Day celebration includes visiting the memorial place for the martyrs of the war of independence in 1971. Different organizations hold cultural ceremonies to honor the freedom fighters. Patriotic songs are played, poems are recited, Radio and Television run special programs commemorating the special occasion.